

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Serial No. .... 09/827,248  
Filing Date .... April 4, 2001  
Inventor .... David R. Hembree  
Assignee .... Micron Technology, Inc.  
Group Art Unit .... 2829  
Examiner .... V. Nguyen  
Attorney's Docket No. .... MI22-1684  
Title: Methods of Processing a Workpiece, Methods of Communicating Signals With  
Respect to a Wafer, and Methods of Communicating Signals Within a Workpiece  
Processing Apparatus

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TO ACCOMPANY RCE FILING

To: Mail Stop Petitions  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

From: James D. Shaurette (Tel. 509-624-4276; Fax 509-838-3424)  
Wells, St. John, P.S.  
601 W. First Avenue, Suite 1300  
Spokane, WA 99201-3828

Sir:

In the following Preliminary Amendment, Applicants amend and remark as follows:

AMENDMENTS